

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 13 September 1948

SUBJECT Vietnamese Foreign Language Training School

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1. The Viet Minh Tong Bo, in March 1947, created a "School of Living Languages" (Truong Sing-Ngu) in the jungle near Tuyen-Quang, Tonkin. The purpose of the school is to train Can-Bo in English, German, Mandarin, and Russian. A student is permitted to choose any one of the three languages, German, Mandarin, or Russian, in addition to English. English is compulsory as a secondary language but only as an aid to the student in making himself understood while en route to the country to which he is delegated. Those students who choose German remain in Indochina as interpreters or liaison men between the Vietnamese Government and the German deserters from the French Foreign Legion who are now serving in important numbers in the Vietnamese Army.
2. The training course at this school lasts one year. The enrollment was limited to 60 students during the first year. Thirty students studied Mandarin, twenty studied German, and ten studied Russian. The number of teachers was constantly changing.
3. During the course of the French "Winter Offensive" in Tonkin (Fall 1947), the school building was bombed and ten students were killed.
4. In early 1948 twenty five graduates of this school went to Hong Kong. From there some of them proceeded to Yenan. The rest went to Russia. At least one other graduate, Nguyen (fnu), went to Prague via Bangkok in the summer of 1948.

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